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Record

OCA 86-1463

2 May 1986

NOTE FOR: The Director
DDCI

FROM: David Gries 

SUBJECT: Building a Constituency for CIA

Although the Agency enjoys broader support today than it did five years ago, it is by no means certain it is strong enough to see us through another period like the RAMPARTS flap or the Church and Pike Committee hearings. Yet history suggests that we will face such attacks in the future, perhaps not immediately, but certainly within the next ten years.

What can we do to prepare ourselves? Can we build a broader constituency? There is no quenching the public's thirst for books about intelligence, and a body of reasonably reliable nonfiction works currently exists. Does the Agency have anything to offer that both would slake the public's thirst and educate the public about the quality of our analytical product and the effectiveness of our operations?

-Two possibilities come to mind: first, Studies in Intelligence has been publishing for 30 years, and many of the older articles, as well as many currently published ones, have been declassified or were unclassified in the first place.

-Second, National Estimates have been published since 1946 and to date at least 175 of these have been declassified, mostly in response to FOIA requests.

The Agency should explore publishing a collection of Studies in Intelligence articles, perhaps in a series of books published over several years. We should also explore a separate collection of National Estimates accompanied by an explanation of how estimating evolved and what it has contributed to national security policy making. A description of the unique roles of Sherman Kent and William L. Langer would make interesting reading.

cc: Ken McDonald

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